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# C A L I F O R N I A

## Labor & Workforce Development Agency

### N E W S R E L E A S E

**Contact:** Kevin Callori  
Patrick Joyce  
(916) 654-9029

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### State Announces \$5 Million in Grants to Expand Anti-Gang Job Training Initiative

SACRAMENTO -- Continuing Governor Schwarzenegger's commitment to combat gang violence, the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency announced the availability of \$5 million in grants to expand job training and education programs targeting youth who are involved in gangs or who are at risk of gang involvement.

"By investing in job training and education for those who might otherwise join gangs and those who seek to leave gangs, we stand the best chance of helping these youth turn their backs on a life of crime and become contributing members of society," said Victoria Bradshaw, secretary of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

In May 2007, the Governor announced the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) Initiative to combat gang violence in California. The Initiative targeted up to \$31 million in State and federal funding for local anti-gang efforts, including job training, education and intervention programs. In March 2008, \$7.3 million in grants were awarded to provide job training and education programs targeting youth at risk of joining gangs or those seeking to leave gangs.

"California has an ongoing statewide gang problem and job training may be the single best long-term antidote to gang violence. The Governor's initiative will invest State resources where they have not been focused before, providing job training for youth who are at-risk of joining gangs or who wish to leave gang life. A good job is the best alternative to life on the street and an effective anti-crime strategy," said Paul Seave, director of the Governor's Gang and Youth Violence Policy Office.

The State Employment Development Department, in coordination with the California Workforce Investment Board, is releasing a CalGRIP Solicitation for Proposal (SFP) of \$5 million in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Governor's Discretionary 15 Percent funds. This SFP will award local government and community-based organizations providing a holistic approach to serving youth, linking youth to career pathways in high wage/high growth industries or occupations with future career advancement opportunities.

The SFP is to be released October 10, 2008, on the EDD solicitations page: [http://www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs\\_and\\_Training/WSDSFP\\_Workforce\\_Development\\_Solicitations\\_for\\_Proposals.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs_and_Training/WSDSFP_Workforce_Development_Solicitations_for_Proposals.htm). The Web site will contain all of the information and forms needed to apply. Proposals will be due November 14, 2008.

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